Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

# EARLY GENERATIONS OF THE TANNER FAMILY OF HENRICO COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BY WILLIAM CLAYTON TORRENCE

The first person by the name of Tanner* appearing in the extant Henrico County records was one Joseph Tanner who appears to have had a patent for land in that county as early as March, 1662 [1662-3].† The Tanner home, as is shown by many of the later records, was located in that section of Henrico County lying south of James River (and now Chesterfield County) in the well known Bermuda Hundred.

From the original of the will of Richard Cocke of Henrico, dated 1665 (among the original papers in Henrico Court) the following interesting item is taken: "In presence of us ——— Henry Randolph, Cop Vir Extrati & Exam ℔ *Jos: Tanner Cl Cur* Copia William Randolph Cl Cur." It would seem from this that Tanner was clerk of the Court.

---

* There were other Tanners in the colony prior to and probably contemporaneous with Joseph Tanner. There was a Tanner family in Norfolk County and also a Thomas Tanner in Charles City County. On November 27, 1657, Thomas Tanner was granted by patent 250 acres (with 34 perches which lies on point without the east line) in Charles [City] County, south side James River; east side head of Powell's Creek near the old Town; bounded west by Charles Sparrow and Richard Tye, north head of Powell's Creek, east Piney Swamp, south into the woods. Due for transportation of 6 persons [names not given in record]. There was also an Edward Tanner of Surry County, will dated Jany. 24, 1684, probated 7ber 15, 1685, eldest son Edward, youngest son William; son John; Robert Seale; my wife (Surry Records, Vol. 1684-86.)

Where the Tanners came from to Virginia is not known, but there may he found references to the name in *Calendar of Wills and Administrations:* Devon & Cornwall [*Publications of British Record Society*], 2 Vols.

† See footnote, p. 88, where an abstract is given of a patent to the four children of Joseph Tanner and which is authority for this statement. I have been unable to find record of this patent of March, 1662, to Tanner.

Joseph[1] Tanner (died prior to 1677) married Mary (born about 1639; died about 1700) whose surname is now unknown.* She married *secondly,* Gilbert Platt of Henrico. The will of Joseph Tanner bore date Xber 7, 1668. The will of Mrs. Mary Platt, dated March 18, 1699, was proved in Henrico Court February 1, 1699-1700.

1. Joseph[1] and Mary Tanner, had issue:

2. i. Joseph[2] Tanner married *first,* Ann Floyd; *second,* Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin.
3. ii. Edward[2] Tanner married Mary Hatcher.
4. iii. Mary[2] Tanner married William Liggon.
5. iv. Martha[2] Tanner married *first,* Thomas Jones; *second,* Edward Haskins.†

Mrs. Mary Tanner's second marriage to Gilbert Platt,‡ seems to have been productive of considerable disturbance. In his *Branchiana* (pages 122-125) James Branch Cabell gives a very interesting account (drawn from the Henrico records) of the

---

* The only evidence, thus far discovered, which proves Mrs. Mary Tanner-Platt's relationship to any one in Henrico (other than her own descendants) is found in the will of Mrs. Martha Stratton (widow of Edward Stratton, the elder, and before that of Thomas Shippy) dated July 24, 1692, probated in Henrico County February 1, 1695/6 in which she mentions her "Sister Platt."

† Mary, Joseph, Edward and Martha Tanner received on 30 October, 1673, a patent for 650 acres, 2 rods and 8 poles on south side James River, Henrico County beginning at the middle spring bottome at the river side near Mr. Baugh's line, nighe blind slash, along the river to mouth of Hell Garden bottome at the landing; 450 acre part thereof formerly granted Joseph Tanner, decd., by patent 24 March 1662 and by said Tanner given to his children above said; and 200 acres, 2 rod due by and for the transportation into the colony of four persons, viz.: Eliz Rogers, Christ. Hatton, Math Linsley, Norg[r].

‡ *Branchiana,* page 122 says, "But about *1660,* at latest, he [Platt] had risen somewhat in the world, and *had* married * * * Mary Tanner widow of Joseph Tanner of Henrico." [Italics mine.] The use of the past tense here makes Mrs. Mary, the wife of Platt, married to him eight years prior to the date of Joseph Tanner's will and from two to four years prior to the births of Joseph and Edward Tanner, sons of Joseph Tanner and Mary his wife, who as the *widow of Tanner* married Gilbert Platt. This is obviously an error.

domestic troubles of the Platt-Tanner connection and as space forbids the introduction of the whole of the "evidence" here a statement of the substance thereof must suffice and the sufficiently interested person is referred to Mr. Cabell's account for details.

Platt was quite evidently only tenant by courtesy on the Tanner property, which is called in the records both "Fauldinge" and "Bauldings" (a corruption of Baldwyn's), a situation at best most uncomfortable for a second mate, especially when that mate is of the masculine gender. Added to this situation is Madam Mary, who, there is every evidence from items in the official records for believing, possessed, or was possessed by, a peppery temper as well as a spirit for the administration of worldly affairs; and another plus of Madam Mary's son Joseph Tanner, the younger, who no doubt inherited some of his mother's height of temper. Such a situation seems to carry as if by nature the germ of disruption. At any rate disruption was the result. First Gilbert Platt and Madam Mary were in court "at variance * * * over a portion of Gilbert Platt's own estate which by deed * * * [he] had made over to her." Then came the trouble with his wife and *her* children, or rather her eldest son.* The tossing of lightwood sticks by the step-son at the step-father one evening as the latter was returning home elicited complaint from Mr. Platt to his wife relative to the treatment he had received from Master Joseph Tanner. "And for his pains" says Mr. Cabell, "was promptly called a liar, since, as Mrs. Platt explained, she had reared her children so carefully that in common reason none of them would ever have been guilty of such outrageous conduct." And then the storm broke as young Joseph, going into the room, accused Mr. Platt of having slandered him on a certain occasion and recourse was had to a "tobacco stick" or "a stake" whose blow seems to have knocked out Mr. Platt. Again the courts were sought and the upshot of the matter was that Gilbert Platt no longer troubled his wife and *her* children with his presence, resigning, by deed 28 March, 1681, all his right to the plantation at Bauldings to Joseph, Edward, Martha and Mary, orphans of Joseph Tanner, deceased (Henrico Records, Vol.

* See depositions recorded Henrico Court, Vol. 1677-92, p. 142.

1677-92, p. 162). That "Bauldings" was in "Hell Garden Bottom" (repeatedly mentioned as a boundary in Tanner deeds) seems not insignificant in connection with the various disturbances in this family.

2. Joseph[2] Tanner (*Joseph*[1]) was born about 1662,* died prior to February, 1698-9. He lived in Henrico County. He appears as having served as a juryman in August, 1688, and again in August, 1692. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1677-92, pp. 279, 481.) He became conspicuous by his trouble with his step-father, Gilbert Platt referred to above. He appears in several deeds as "heir" of his father, Joseph[1] Tanner, deceased.†

Joseph[2] Tanner married *first,* in 1682, Ann Floyd and, *second,* in 1689, Sarah, widow of Matthew Turpin, and daughter of Edward Hatcher, of Henrico. Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin—Tanner married, *third,* Samuel Oulton.

The proof of the *first* marriage, to Ann Floyd, is as follows: 28 Xbris 1682, William Byrd prayed to be relieved as security for estate of Ann Floyd, an orphan in the wardship of James Forrest, * * * "an acquaintance from *Joseph Tanner, who married the said orphan.*" Henrico Records, Vol. 1677-1692, p. 228.

The proof of the *second* marriage, to Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin, and her identity, is as follows:

Marriage licenses in Henrico issued between October, 1688, and October, 1689:

---

* Deposition Henrico Records, Vol. 1688-97, p. 26, and dated December 1, 1688, Joseph Tanner aged about 27 years.

† Joseph[2] Tanner became guardian of his brother and sisters, on his coming of age. At a Court held for Henrico October 1, 1683, he was ordered to give bond and security for estate belonging to orphans of Joseph Tanner decd. (he being at his own and the former guardian's request, admitted their guardian) and Mr. Gilbert Platt, the former guardian to said orphans is discharged. Richard Ward enters himself as surety for Joseph Tanner (Henrico Records, Vol. 1694-1739, p. 19).

April 16, 1683, Mr. Joseph Tanner and Mr. Richard Womack had patent for 206 acres, 1 rood, 20 poles, n. side Appomattox River, Bristol Parish, Henrico Co., adjoining Maj. William Harris, Holy Ground Slash, Ashen Swamp, Holy Ground Run, great branch of Ashen Swamp, Richd. Womack's line. Due for transportation of 5 persons, viz.: Thos. Bayes, Richd. Perrot, David Salisbury, Thos White and Hen. Boyce.

*Joseph Tanner with Sarah Turpin.** (Henrico Records, Vol. 1688-97, p. 97.)

Henrico Court, October 1, 1689, upon petition of Mr. Joseph Tanner, who married the executrix of Mathew Turpin, decd., it is ordered that between this and next court the cattle & horses of ye decd. be according to his last will divided between ye executrix and children. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1678-1693, p. 314.)

Henrico Court September 2, 1695, Ord^d Mr. Joseph Tanner be summoned to next court to give new security for Mathew Turpin's orphans' estate. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1699-1739, p. 38.)

30Xber 1698 Sam^ll Oulton for marriage with Sarah Tanner, widow. (Henrico Records 1697-1704, p. 104.)

August 1, 1699, Upon petn of Tho Branch, it is ordered that Sam^ll Oulton who married administratrix of Joseph Tanner (who was the relict of Mathew Turpin, decd.) be summoned to the next orph^s court to give sect^y for estate belonging to orph^s of afs^d Matthew Turpin. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1694-1701, p. 232.)

August 2, 1682, Edward Hatcher† made gift to his daughter Sarah Hatcher, of an Indian girl named Kate. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1677-92, p. 222.)

June 1, 1686, Edward Hatcher made gift of a brown cow calf to Henry Turpin, son of said Hatcher's daughter Sarah and her husband Matthew Turpin. (Henrico Records, 1677-92, p. 320.)

Court held for Henrico March 1, 1700-1, " * * * [Sarah] y^e wife of Sam^ll Oulton humbly informs this court * * * [that her former] husband Matthew Turpin did leave some estate wch * * * [is due]

---

* Mathew Turpin of Henrico, will dated Jan. 15, 1688, probated April 1, 1689, eldest son Henry, all my lands and in case of death without male heirs to my son designed to be called Mathew; in case of death of both without male heirs then land to revert to Mr. Tho Osborne and his heirs; cattle, horses, &c., to be equally divided between wife and children; wife Sarah, sole executor. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1688-97, p. 41.)

† Hatcher: William[1] Hatcher (born about 1614; died about 1678) of Henrico County. He came into the colony about 1635 and figured conspicuously as a resident of Henrico. He was a member of the House of Burgesses from that county, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1649 and 1652, and again in 1659. Some interesting notes on him are given in *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,* V, p. 98. He was the father of Edward[2] Hatcher (born about 1633; died about 1711) of Henrico County who (as appears by records quoted in the text) was the father of Sarah[3] Hatcher who married *first,* Matthew Turpin; *second,* Joseph Tanner; *third,* Samuel Oulton.

unto his son Thomas† and praying that the same may * * * [be deli] vered up into the hands of *her* father Edward Hatcher for * * * [the use of the sd. orphan*s*. Ordered that she have liberty untill * * * [next] court to show forth what ye sd estate is &c that further * * * be taken therein." (Henrico Records, Vol. 1694-1701, p. 309.)

On Xber [December] 1st, 1698 Administration was granted Sarah Tanner on her deceased husband, Joseph Tanner's estate with Mr. Allenson Clerk and Mr. Edward Haskins, securities. (Henrico Records 1697-1704, p. 144.)

An Inventory of the Estate of Joseph Tanner, late of Henrico County, deceased, taken and appraised by order of Court this 23d day of January 1698-9.

[Total of Appraisement] £148:16:4½.

Appraised by virtue of an order of court made this 1st day of Xber 1698 by wee ye subscribers

Tho Edwards
Phill Turpin
Thos Osborne
Seth Ward.

Returned and recorded February 1, 1698-9 as "Presented by Sarah the relict of ye deceased Joseph Tanner and proved by her oath." (Henrico Records, Vol. 1697-1704, p. 134.)

Joseph[2] Tanner had issue by his *first* wife, Ann Floyd:

6. i. Joseph[3] Tanner.
7. ii. Thomas[3] Tanner.*

---

† No son Thomas is mentioned in Mathew Turpin's will dated Jan. 15, 1688, probated April 1, 1689 (See abstract ante). The question arises: was Thomas a pothumous child or was he the son "designed to be called Matthew" as alluded to in his father's will? No research has yet been directed towards the settling of this question. A careful examination of the Henrico records would doubtless solve the problem.

* The proof that Joseph[3] and Thomas[3] Tanner were sons by *Ann Floyd* comes in this way. Joseph[2] Tanner married Ann Floyd in 1682. At Court held for Henrico April 1, 1699 Upon the ptn of *Joseph* Tanner one of the orphans of Mr. Joseph Tanner, late of this county, decd. Capt. Peter Feld is appointed his guardian. Henrico Records, Vol. 1694-1701, p. 223.) At the same court "The pstn of Mrs. Mary Platt concerning her grandson Thomas Tanner is referred untill ye next court at which time Mr. Samll Oulton father in law [step-father, and such because he mar-

Joseph[2] Tanner had issue by his *second* wife, Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin:

8. iii. Lodowick[3] Tanner† married Frances Branch.
9. iv. Lewis[3] Tanner.

3. Edward[2] Tanner (*Joseph*[1]) of Henrico County was born

---

ried the step-mother (Sarah, *second* wife and widow of Joseph[2] Tanner) of Thomas Tanner] to y^e^ s^d^ orph is ordered and required to bring him before the court (*Ibid.*). At a court held for Henrico August 21, 1699, "Upon pet^n^ of Mrs. Mary Platt by y^e^ consent of Sam^ll^ Oulton who marryed, the relict of Joseph Tanner, decd. It is ordered that she have under her care and tuission her grandson Thomas Tanner one of y^e^ orph^s^ of Joseph Tanner, aforesd, decd. she promising in Court to educate and maintain him at ner own cost and charge. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1677-1739, p. 42.) At a Court held for Henrico March 1, 1700-1 Upon the pet^n^ of Thomas Tanner one of the orph of Joseph Tanner, late of this county decd *his grandfather* James Forrest is admitted his guardian. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1694-1701, p. 301.) On 30 June 1708 Joseph Tanner, son and *heir* of Joseph Tanner, late of Henrico County, decd., made conveyance to Thomas Tanner, *second son* of said Joseph Tanner, decd., of Bristol Parish, Prince George County. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1706-09, pp. 100, 101.) The question raised as to what was the exact degree of relationship existing between James Forrest and Thomas Tanner by the fact that Forrest is called *grandfather* to said Tanner when it seems a settled fact that Tanner's mother was Anne Floyd, is not definitely settled by any item in the Henrico Records, but, Forrest was in all probability *stepfather* to Ann Floyd (who appears to have been his ward, see Henrico Records, Vol. 1677-92, p. 228; quoted *ante*), and hence in reality *step* grandfather to Thomas Tanner. Of course it is not impossible (and one dare not say not improbable) that Forrest may have been grandfather (maternally) of Anne Floyd and *great* grandfather of Thomas Tanner, though the former theory seems the probable solution. At any rate the connection was through Thomas Tanner's mother for all of the women on the Tanner side whose availability to have produced such a connection were married to other parties than James Forrest.

† The proof that Lodowick Tanner was a son of Joseph[2] Tanner by Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin comes in this way. Lodowick Tanner was born in 1692 and was of age in December 1713 (Henrico Records, Vol. 1710-14, p. 265). Joseph[2] Tanner and Sarah (Hatcher) Turpin were married sometime between *October* 1688 and *October* 1689 and Joseph[2] Tanner did not die until the latter part of 1698. The following is also evidence "Whereas at a Court held at Varina for this [Henrico] Co. 1 Aug^st^ instant [1706] *Sarah Oulton* (pursuant to former order) did appear & in open court promise to give sec^y^ for maintainannce of her son *Lodowick,* etc. But for as much as sd Sarah nor non for her doth now appear It is thought fit & accd^g^ ord^d^ that if said Sarah do not appear next court & give bond

about 1664;* died 1719. He was a juryman in August 1688 and August 1692 (Henrico Records, Vol. 1677-92, pp. 279, 481), and at the April Court 1685 he and others were presented to the Grand Jury by Francis Carter for fighting. (*Ibid,* p. 312.) In 1687 he made an agreement with his mother, Mrs. Mary Platt (*Ibid.,* p. 446).

Edward[2] Tanner married Mary, probably daughter of Henry and Ann (Lound) Hatcher. William Hatcher, Junior of Henrico, (son of Henry and Ann [Lound] Hatcher) in his will proved in Henrico County, June 1694, names *brother* Edward Tanner, uncle Edward Hatcher and brother Henry Hatcher. The will of Henry Lound, of Henrico County, dated July 2, 1708, probated November 1, 1708, names granddaughter Mary Tanner.

The will of Edward[2] Tanner, of Henrico County, dated August 13, 1719, was probated November 2, 1719, son *Edward* Tanner, plantation he now lives on and one feather bed, one cow, one steer; son *John* Tanner, plantation he lives on and one feather bed and furniture; wife [name not given], plantation I now live on during her life and after her death to my son *Joseph* Tanner; son *Joseph* Tanner, plantation I now live on after my wife's decease, and one gun called Bockam, and one feather bed and furniture; grandson Edward Tanner all my land between Flinton's Slash and head line it being on south side of the *slatch;* daughter *Ann* * * * , one feather bed and furniture and sole [leather?] trunk, one cow and heifer known by the name of her cows and all that she hath in her trunk; daughter *Martha* Tanner, one feather bed and furniture, one new black leather trunk to her at age of 21 years or marriage; daughter *Mary* Tanner, bed and furniture, trundle bed, black leather trunk at age of 21 years or marriage; daughter *Elizabeth* Tanner, one feather bed and furniture, black leather trunk, at age of 21 years or marriage; wife [name not given], my Indian slave during wife's life, then to my

---

& secy for maintaining & educating of her sd son *Lodowick* that then the Shff. deliver him unto Mr. Alexander Marshall who hath lately married Mrs. Elizabeth Ligon by whose care & charge the sd *Lodowick* hath been formerly maintained." This order was entered at a court held for Henrice County August 20, 1706. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1694-1739, p. 48.) Lewis Tanner is mentioned as *brother* in the will of Lodowick Tanner.

* Deposition in Henrico County Records, Vol. 1688-97, p. 535, dated August 24, 1694, gives Edward Tanner aged about 30 years.

son *Edward;* wife, executrix. Witnesses: Thom Knibb, William Cheatham, William Ligon.*

No systematic attempt has been made to trace out the descendants of Edward[2] Tanner and the following notes gathered at random are offered in the hope that some one may at a later day feel inclined to follow the clues:

At Henrico Court August 1723 a petition was presented by Mary Tanner, executrix of the will of Edward Tanner, deceased setting forth that she had paid Edward Stewart (who married Martha one of the daughters of the said Edward Tanner) the legacy given said Martha by said Tanner's will and that said Stewart refusing to give a discharge for same; Stewart appeared and said he had not received his wife's full legacy, whereupon court having considered allegations of parties and the depositions of evidence sworn are of opinion that said Stewart hath received the whole legacy given his wife aforesaid. (Henrico Records 1719-24, p. 282.)

On October 8, 1745, Mary Tanner and Joseph Tanner of Goochland County convey to Henry Hatcher, of Henrico County, for £25 currency, 160 acres on south side James River in Henrico County, adjoining Thomas Nibb [Knibb], Peter Ashbrook, Jr, and William Baugh, being plantation whereon Edward Stewart now lives. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1744-8, p. 453.) †

The will of Edward Tanner, of Raleigh Parish, Amelia County, dated December 12, 1769, was probated in Amelia July 26, 1770, to wife [name not given], feather bed and furniture, my Black horse, and side saddle and bridle and use of plantation during her life or widowhood; daughter *Elizabeth* Coleman, 1 shilling sterling and all other necessaries which she hath in her possession; daughter *Jane* Coleman, the same; son *Robert* Tanner, the same; daughter Ann Clay, the same; son *Field* Tanner, all my land from his brother Robert's line to the Back line containing 170 acres including the plantation; the 208 acres which I own in Mecklenburg County to be sold and money to be equally divided between Jeremiah Tanner and Edward Tanner; residue to be sold at 12 months credit and money equally divided (after payment of debts) between Jeremiah Tanner, Edward Tanner, Field Tanner, Milley Tanner and Martha Tanner; executors, son Jeremiah Tanner and Robert Tanner. Witnesses, Joseph Coleman, John Coleman, Francis Coleman. (Amelia Records, Will Book 2x, p. 323).

---

* This will of Edward Tanner is preserved in Henrico County Court in its original form among the "original papers." The volume containing the recorded copy thereof was destroyed many years ago.

† From an index to wills in Albemarle County it appears that the will of Mary Tanner was probated there in 1760.

(To be continued.)